



Beverly, Massachusetts, Site

A FUSRAP SITE

This fact sheet provides information about the **Beverly site**. Long-term stewardship responsibilities for this site are managed by the **U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management** under the **Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program**.

Site Information and History

The Beverly, Massachusetts, Site (formerly the Ventron Corporation site) is located on Massachusetts Bay at the confluence of the Bass River to the west and the Danvers River to the south. A railroad borders the site to the east, and a granite seawall surrounds the property along its boundaries with the two rivers. The city of Beverly lies approximately 15 miles northeast of Boston. The 3-acre Beverly site was formerly a chemical manufacturing plant and research and development facility owned by Morton International.

From 1942 to 1948, Metal Hydrides Corporation conducted operations at the site under contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Manhattan Engineer District and its successor, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Workers at the site converted uranium oxide to uranium powder and (later) to uranium metal and recovered uranium from the scrap of a fuel fabrication plant in Hanford, Washington. Uranium-238 was identified as the primary contaminant of concern from those activities.

Between 1948 and 1950, after AEC surveyed and decommissioned the site, two of the original foundry facility buildings were demolished, and two new buildings were erected in their place. Another structure, the Alfa Building, was constructed and used for operations involving

purification of thorium compounds. Contamination from thorium-232 and, to a lesser extent, radium-226 resulted from this work. Beneath Building A, radium was mixed with asbestos-containing material. Although uranium contamination at the site was the result of work performed for AEC, the thorium and radium contamination resulted from private operations that did not involve work for the federal government.

In 1977, after the Thiokol Corporation (renamed Morton International in 1990) acquired the property, Oak Ridge National Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a radiological screening survey at the site. Based on the survey results, DOE determined that a comprehensive radiological survey of the entire site was needed. In 1986, the site was designated for remedial action under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

DOE conducted radiological decontamination of the Ventron site in two phases: the first in September 1995 and the second from May 1996 to March 1997. Supplemental sampling of the site to verify the adequacy of radiological remediation was performed in July 1997.

In September 1995, the first phase of DOE remediation began in the site tidal flats adjacent to the seawall. During this phase, DOE performed a walkover over the entire harbor down to the low-tide mark and identified areas with elevated

levels of radioactive materials for remediation. DOE found elevated readings in three areas. Excavations were completed in the first two areas, and post-remedial action samples were collected. Excavation was halted in the third area because contamination in that area was too extensive to be removed by manual methods. During the second phase of the remedial action, the third area was remediated and post-remedial action samples were collected.

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DOE and then-owner Morton International, several on-site buildings were demolished and the crushed building rubble was sampled. Rubble meeting DOE guidelines contained in DOE Order (O) 5400.5, *Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment*, was stockpiled and used as backfill along the seawall. Building slabs were surveyed and either decontaminated and left in place or removed and disposed of with other contaminated material.

Regulatory Setting

AEC, the predecessor agency to DOE, established FUSRAP in March 1974 to evaluate radioactive contamination at sites used in the development of the nation's nuclear weapons and atomic energy programs. DOE has the legislative authority under the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) of 1954, as amended, to perform radiological surveys, monitoring, and maintenance at sites used to support the nuclear activities of DOE's predecessor agencies. DOE also has legislative authority under the AEA to remediate FUSRAP sites identified as requiring some form of response action. In 1997, Congress transferred responsibility for FUSRAP site characterization and remediation from DOE to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM)

retains responsibility for long-term care of remediated FUSRAP sites. For more information about the program, please see the [FUSRAP fact sheet](#).

Because contamination at the site resulted from operations performed for both the federal government and private industry, a 1996 MOA between DOE and Morton International defined responsibilities for cleanup.

DOE remediated contamination at the Beverly site, for which it was responsible, to criteria in DOE Order 5400.5. A notice of cleanup certification for the site was published in the Federal Register on October 21, 2003.

In fiscal year 2004, DOE transferred long-term stewardship responsibilities for the Beverly FUSRAP site from the DOE Office of Environmental Management to LM.

Current Site Conditions

Post-remedial action survey data indicate that the radiological condition of the Beverly site is in compliance with applicable DOE standards and guidelines for cleanup of residual radioactive contamination. DOE certified that use of the property in the reasonably foreseeable future will result in no radiological exposure above current guidelines established to protect members of the general public as well as occupants of the site. Therefore, DOE released the site for unrestricted use. The current site owner developed the property for multiunit residential housing in 2019.

Legacy Management Activities

No monitoring, maintenance, or site inspections are required for the Beverly site. LM's responsibilities consist of managing site records and responding to stakeholder inquiries.

Contact Information

In case of an emergency at the site, contact 911.

LM toll-free emergency hotline: (877) 695-5322

Site-specific documents related to the **Beverly Massachusetts, Site** are available on the LM website at www.energy.gov/lm/beverly-massachusetts-site.

For more information on FUSRAP site history or current long-term stewardship activities, contact:

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